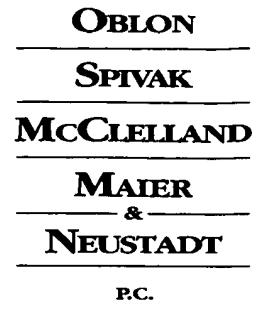




Docket No.: 201976US2



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GREGORY J. MAIER
(703) 413-3000
GMAIER@OBLON.COM

SURINDER SACHAR
(703) 413-3000
SSACHAR@OBLON.COM

RECEIVED

FEB 03 2004

Technology Center 2800

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

Customer Number

22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone)

(703) 413-2220 (fax)

I:\ATTY\SN\20's\201976\REST RESP CVR.DOC

201976US2



#12/Election
mail
2/4/04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Kouji YOSHIDA, et al. : EXAMINER: Strege, J.B.

SERIAL NO.: 09/758,289 :

FILED: January 12, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2625

FOR: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DATA CLASSIFICATION, SIGNAL PROCESSING, POSITION DETECTION, IMAGE PROCESSING, AND EXPOSURE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

RECEIVED

FEB 03 2004

Technology Center 2600

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction requirement of January 2, 2004, applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, the invention of group II and including claims 78-94, 111, 114, and 116.

Applicants traverse the outstanding restriction requirement on the grounds that it has not been established that it be an undue burden to examine each of the noted inventions and claims together.

Under M.P.E.P. § 803, a restriction is not proper if a search and examination can be made without a serious burden on the Examiner, and the outstanding restriction requirement has not established that examining each of the currently-pending claims together would result in an undue burden.

M.P.E.P. § 803 specifically states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

The outstanding restriction requirement has not established that each of the claims could be examined without an undue burden, and thus each of the noted inventions and claims should be examined on their merits.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Surinder Sachar

Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record



22850

Tel.: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220

GJM/SNS/jrs

I:\ATTY\SNS\21's\218352\RESTRICT RESP.DOC